

Mr. *Thomas Ripley*, a local botanist of Lincolnville, Maine, has shown me specimens of *Panax trifolium* which he collected several years ago in a rich woodland near Lake Megunticook, Lincolnville, Waldo Co.

BIDENS COMOSA (Gray) Wiegand appears, in herbaria, to be very local in Maine. It has been collected from a damp field, Orono, Penobscot Co., Sept. 19, 1889, by *M. L. Fernald*, and the specimen is in the herbarium of the New England Botanical Club. In recent years it was collected by the writer from boggy woods near Ducktrap River, Lincolnville, Waldo Co. This seeming rarity of *BIDENS COMOSA* in this region may, of course, be due to poor representation of the species in herbaria.

Collections made by the writer and referred to in this article are to be found in the herbarium of the New England Botanical Club.

DUDLEY HERBARIUM,
Stanford University.

WHERRY'S GUIDE TO THE FERNS OF THE CENTRAL ATLANTIC STATES.¹—Dr. Wherry has probably a wider field knowledge of the ferns of eastern North America than anyone else now living. It is therefore good news that some of this knowledge has been made conveniently available to the public, even in the severely limited space of a pocket manual, covering only the states from New Jersey and Pennsylvania to Virginia.

Brevity has plainly been a controlling consideration in the preparation of the book. Descriptions are rigidly confined to a single page; the index has likewise been cut to one, rather confusingly arranged, page; and only the rudiments of a key have been admitted. But the author has contrived to include an ample, original and, for the layman, most helpful glossary of technical terms; essential synonymy, given intelligibility for the beginner by being thrown into narrative form; descriptions giving characters which, though not always technically the most important, are diagnostic and contrasting; and detailed and accurate statements of ranges and habitats such as have not appeared in previous popular works. In addition, supplementary chapters give good advice as to the cultivation of ferns and the sort of soils and other conditions needed by a considerable list of species.

Except in *Isoetes*, where they all look alike, each species is illustrated by a habit-sketch and drawings of details, placed on the page opposite the description. In the absence of a key, these illustrations are the primary means of making determinations. Not all of them are equal to this function: though many show an excellent faculty for catching the characteristic posture of the plants concerned and are otherwise clearly and skillfully done, some are stiff and conventionalized to the point of misrepresentation. I doubt if the average user, standing before a lush clump of Christmas fern in the woods, would suspect it to be the same as the attenuated design which does duty for it in the book. High magnification would be needed to reveal in the minute glandularity of *Woodsia obtusa* and *W. scopulina* anything resembling the

¹ Wherry, Edgar T. Guide to Eastern Ferns. Science Press Printing Co., Lancaster, Pennsylvania. [Dec.] 1937, 220 pp., 96 ill. \$1.00

relatively huge spike-like processes figured for those species. In the latter, moreover, the glandularity of stipe and rachis is also badly exaggerated and the characteristic long hairs are altogether missing in the enlarged pinnule. The pinnule drawn under *Dryopteris cristata* belongs to some other species, probably *D. spinulosa*; and whatever the sheath ascribed to *Equisetum variegatum* may be, it is not of that species.

Because the illustrations take the place of a key, these imperfections in detail are more important than they would otherwise be. Even so, they should not obscure the fact that this little book shares with Dr. Small's "Ferns of the Vicinity of New York" the advantage of having been written by a competent professional; it carries a correspondingly greater authority and reliability than most popular fern books, and it should lead the beginner and the layman in an essentially right direction.—C. A. WEATHERBY.

EXTENSION OF THE RANGE OF *RANUNCULUS PURSHII*.—On July 21, 1937 *Ranunculus Purshii* Richardson was found growing on a muddy hummock in Gott Brook, Springfield, Penobscot County, Maine. Some of the plants extended into the water while others were growing, at that time, above the water-level. This station is situated a few hundred yards north of where Gott Brook crosses the main road leading from Lee to Springfield.

Previous to this time the most southerly station for Maine, and also the most southeasterly station for North America was in New Limerick, Aroostook County.¹

Mr. E. C. Ogden of the Gray Herbarium has very kindly verified the determination as made by the writer. A specimen from this station has been deposited in the Herbarium of the New England Botanical Club.—MAYNARD W. QUIMBY, University of Maine, Orono, Maine.

¹ Fernald and Wiegand, *RHODORA*, xii. 139 (1910).

Volume 40, no. 473, including pages 185-220 and plates 492-494, was issued 7 May, 1938.